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# San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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### **STATEMENT BY MICHAEL AGUIRRE Response to Scott Peters**

City Council President Scott Peters forgets that he is one of the City Council members who is responsible for the financial disaster the City is now experiencing with its employees' \$1.5 billion underfunded pension plan and its \$1.4 billion unfunded health benefits plan, equaling an approximate \$3 billion debt for taxpayers.

In reality, it is Mr. Peters, using his own words, who has cost the "taxpayers money, money that could [have been] spent on deferred maintenance and public safety."

Superior Court Judge Jeffrey B. Barton ruled today that the failure of the City to challenge the pension benefits granted to City employees in 1996 and 2002 when settling the *Gleason* case now prohibits the City from litigating these issues.

Mr. Peters was on the City Council in 2002 and approved those pension benefits. Mr. Peters was on the City Council in 2004 and approved the *Gleason* settlement. It is Mr. Peters, using his own words, who has failed to protect "taxpayers as well as employees" by his previous actions.

It is the City Attorney who has been battling in court to eliminate the saddling of the public with this debt-and making the city employees' pension plan fiscally sound. That is not a "waste of time and effort" as Mr. Peters would have one believe.

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